

the current leadership. The recent IAEA report shows that Iran is not complying with its obligations under the treaty. We urgently need to keep a united front on the goal of preventing Iran from advancing its nuclear military capability. These sanctions could undermine that effort.

This bill is the wrong move for the global economy as well. In the middle of a very fragile economic recovery, these new sanctions could wreak havoc in the world oil market, right in the middle of winter, a time of our highest consumption. Already, we see oil prices rising. According to the Wall Street Journal, new sanctions could increase the price of oil by up to \$1 per gallon. That would be terrible for U.S. consumers, businesses and the economy. But it would be very good for Iran's leaders.

In fact, the sanctions would do more to help Iran's Supreme Leader and President than hurt them. Last week, the fierce competition between President Ahmadinejad and Ayatollah Khamenei was threatening to boil over when an embezzlement scandal roiled the Iranian leadership. The Washington Post reported this week that President Ahmadinejad admitted that the country is having a hard team with sanctions, and that now is not the time to shake things up in the government. In other words, external pressure unified rival factions, and helped the repressive regime to achieve a united front.

These sanctions could also hurt Iranian Americans. Sanctions on Iran's Central Bank will make it hard for Iranian Americans to send money to relatives in Iran. That could mean that an Iranian living in the United States has no legal way of helping his parents or grandparents. It could force them to pursue unsafe and illegal channels to send legal remittances to family members. That would be a terrible injustice, and it would be bad for U.S. interests. The Iranian American community is our best way to reach out to people in Iran, and we should not be making it harder for them to do so.

The sanctions could also hurt innocent Iranians in other ways. Aside from making it harder to import food and medicine, this bill bans the licensing of sales of spare parts for civilian airliners. Iran's airlines are already among the most dangerous in the world because of the difficulty in maintaining them under sanctions. Over 1,000 people have died in air crashes in the last ten years.

Lastly, this bill is wrong because it would be an expression to the world that the United States is not interested in having a relationship with the people of Iran. As it stands now, we have very little understanding of what is really happening inside Iran. The Obama Administration has strengthened our capacity to know what is happening inside the country by adding to a network of diplomats in missions around the world focusing on developments in Iran.

But we have a long way to go. Recently Admiral Mike Mullen said that this absence of contact is hurting us. At a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace event shortly before he retired, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said: "Even in the darkest days of the Cold War, we had links to the Soviet Union. We are not talking to Iran, so we don't understand each other."

I agree with Admiral Mullen: we need more contact with Iran—about Afghanistan, the drug

trade, and human rights—not less. Ambassador Tom Pickering, in a recent Newsweek essay, also criticized this bill because of the constitutional questions it raises about the separation of powers.

CISADA sanctions and U.N. measures are having a serious effect, and intensifying rifts in Iran's leadership. This bill would close those rifts as Iran's leaders circle their wagons, and would give them an excuse as to why things are bad on the economic front. I can't support it as it is written.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011—

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, due to a family medical issue, I was unable to cast the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

December 7, 2011—

Rollcall vote 892—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 893—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 894—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 895—I would have voted "no"
Rollcall vote 896—I would have voted "no"
Rollcall vote 897—I would have voted "no"
Rollcall vote 898—I would have voted "no"
Rollcall vote 899—I would have voted "no"
Rollcall vote 900—I would have voted "no"
Rollcall vote 901—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 902—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 903—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 904—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 905—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 906—I would have voted "no"
Rollcall vote 907—I would have voted "no"
Rollcall vote 908—I would have voted "no"
Rollcall vote 909—I would have voted "no"
Rollcall vote 910—I would have voted "no"
Rollcall vote 911—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 912—I would have voted "yes"

December 12, 2011—

Rollcall vote 913—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 914—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 915—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 916—I would have voted "no"

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2011. This bill promises to meet the threat the Islamic Republic of Iran poses and takes significant, tangible steps in limiting Iran's uranium enrichment and targeting Iran's nefarious activities.

The latest United Nations weapons inspectors' disclosure and International Atomic Energy Agency report on the Islamic Republic of Iran are substantial. The Iranian nuclear weapons program is in direct contravention to Iran's ratification of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, endangers regional stability, and poses an unfathomable threat to international security.

The Iranian Regime has defied international order and expectations in its undeniable pursuit of nuclear weapons and its close relationship with foreign terrorist organizations.

That is why the Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2011 is so important. These sanctions are right and just based on irrefutable evidence of malice on the international stage. We must declare that it is United States policy to deny, at every juncture, the ability for Iran to fund and pursue its nuclear program and its policy of inciting violence abroad. The Iranian regime's continuous circumvention of past sanctions and continued noncompliance require more aggressive actions.

The only way to ensure the Iranian regime cannot circumvent international will is to take definitive actions. The sanctions in the Iran Threat Reduction Act in conjunction with the language in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2012 to formally sanction the Central Bank of Iran, CBI, are the steps required at this moment to impede the progress of Iran's ambitions. By sanctioning the CBI and creating accountability to those that deal with Iran, we limit the Iranian leadership's ability to function and directly curtail the infrastructures that sustain Iran's illicit nuclear ambitions and its state-sponsorship of terrorist organizations.

I urge my colleagues to support the Iranian Threat Reduction Act of 2011 and stand with me against the threat posed by the Iranian nuclear program and Iran's known links to various terrorist organizations.

RECOGNIZING THE PARTNERSHIP OF RACHEL CARSON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND DOMINION POWER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the partnership of Rachel Carson Middle School and Dominion Power in efforts to support green energy.

Through their partnership, Carson Middle School was able to recently install on its roof an array of 11 photovoltaic solar panels, which have already generated over 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity—enough to power a house for more than a month.

Rachel Carson Middle School is a Fairfax County public school with over 1200 students. The solar project was initiated in the spring of 2009 and driven by a group of former eighth grade students, its teacher sponsor, Mr. Kirk Treake, and its Going Green Club, formerly established as Carson FREE—which stands for Future Renewable Energy Effort. The group was established in hopes that solar electric would be used in addition to several other prospective forms of renewable energy at school. The Going Green Club is researching wind, geothermal, solar thermal, and algae oil as future possibilities. The solar project was funded by grants from Dominion Power, the Earth Day Network, Lowe's, and InterfaceFLOR as well as donations from InScope International, Katydid Inc., the Carson PTA, and other individuals with no taxpayer money used.

The photovoltaic panels are "grid-tied" so the electricity they produce helps power the

school and decreases the amount of electricity that must be generated by other means, reducing pollution. While serving as a clean energy resource, the photovoltaic system is also used as an accessible, educational resource with students participating in an energy workshop using the new photovoltaic installation and online data logger. The system's connections to the science curriculum in areas of energy, electricity, and the environment serve as great additions to the school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the partnership of Rachel Carson Middle School and Dominion Power. Together, they have succeeded in taking a great step towards cleaner energy for the future. I extend my congratulations to the school and thank Rachel Carson Middle School and Dominion Power for their valuable efforts.

EASTERN WASHINGTON HONORS
RETIRING WASHINGTON FARM
BUREAU PRESIDENT STEVE
APPEL

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the extraordinary career of one of Eastern Washington's most exemplary leaders, Mr. Steve Appel. After devoting over 37 years of service to the Farm Bureau—the last 17 of which have been as Washington Farm Bureau's esteemed President—Steve has decided to retire. His career comes to an end with a long list of distinguished accomplishments and a record of success for the state of Washington.

As a third-generation family farmer, Steve grew wheat and barley in southeast Washington state and worked for decades to promote U.S. agriculture interests at home and abroad. A Washington State University alumnus, Steve leaves behind a distinguished career in Washington's agriculture community.

Steve was elected as Washington Farm Bureau president in 1994 and represents the longest-serving state President in the organization's history. His vision for the organization's growth was tremendous. In fact, in just the last five years, the Bureau experienced an 85 percent increase in membership alone. Under his leadership, Washington Farm Bureau pioneered the first-ever association health plan and industrial insurance safety and health program, which provide health insurance to rural Washingtonians in areas where such services were previously unavailable.

In addition to serving as the Bureau's President, Steve served as Vice President of the American Farm Bureau Federation—the world's largest general agriculture organization with over six million members—from 2001 through 2007. As the Pacific Northwest's first farmer to serve as an officer in the AFBF, he directed and implemented the organization's grassroots development process. Steve has also served on the Whitman County Planning Commission, Whitman County Soil Conservation Board, and the Eastern Washington Advisory Committee for the Washington Policy Center.

But his leadership extends far beyond his elected and appointed positions. He has testi-

fied on many congressional committees and remains extremely engaged in domestic and international trade issues. In his capacity as chairman of AFBF's trade advisory committee, Steve partook in a trade mission to Cuba and Mexico to advocate for advanced trade opportunities between the United States and Latin America.

While Steve is retiring as President of the Washington Farm Bureau, he will continue to serve as a vocal leader and member of the WFB Health Care Trust Board of Directors and the Board of Directors for Farm Bureau Bank. He leaves behind an indelible legacy in the agriculture community and will continue to play an instrumental role in the years to come.

Steve has been more than just a leader for the Farm Bureau; he's been a model for the state of Washington. When asked how he managed his success, he often says, "I live by something my dad said a lot: 'You do the best job you know how to do and leave the rest to the man upstairs.'" I congratulate Steve on his remarkable leadership and thank him for the profound differences he made—and will continue to make—in the state of Washington.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, let's start with what we know:

First, Iran is actively seeking nuclear weapons, and the international community has ratcheted up sanctions to prevent Tehran from getting the bomb.

Second, Iran is attempting to circumvent these sanctions, with Iranian nationals establishing front companies in other countries to get around U.N. restrictions.

Just this year, a grand jury indicted a firm established by Iranians but operating in Istanbul for allegedly procuring materials for Iran's ballistic missile program.

Third, we must be vigilant about companies that deliberately hide their ties to Iran.

But what about companies that don't even try to conceal their Iranian connections?

In October, this Congress passed H.R. 1904, the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act. This bill will allow Rio Tinto, a foreign company that does business with Iran, to obtain public land in Arizona so that it can mine for copper here in the United States.

But when Republicans in this chamber had a chance to join Democrats to ensure these business ties between Rio Tinto and Iran were severed as a condition of doing business on our land, every single member of the Republican majority voted no.

With the threat of nuclear weapons landing in the hands of Ahmadinejad, the stakes are simply too high to change the rules when the majority sees fit.

Vote yes on H.R. 1905 today, and we must insist on strong nuclear nonproliferation conditions in H.R. 1904.

DAVID MARVIN BLUMBERG'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor the celebration of David Marvin Blumberg's 60th birthday.

David was born on December 26, 1951 in Jacksonville, Florida. He is the fourth of five children born to Marvin Bernard and Mary Louise Blumberg. David obtained his Masters Degree of Public Administration in 1994 from the University of North Florida.

He was honorably discharged from his service in the USAF in 1974 after having worked as an instrument mechanic on the Minute Man 1, 2, & 3 missiles at Vandenberg AFB, CA.

David worked alongside his father at Marvin Blumberg and Sons from 1974–1982. He was certified as an FAA Air Traffic controller and worked in that capacity from 1982–2006.

Presently he is serving as an Air Traffic Safety Risk Management Facilitator and Instructor nationwide.

David is the proud father of Lauren, Will, Olivia, Nathan and Natalie. He has one grandchild, Walker Brooks Haas.

David plays the drums in a band comprised of other Air Traffic Controllers who raise money for charities and to date they have raised over \$650,000 for local and national charities.

David will be moving to Fort Worth, Texas to supplement the Federal Aviation Administration's Safety Risk Management staff.

His band Aire Traffic will be playing future benefit concerts to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and for the Joseph Sam's School for Special Needs Children in Fayetteville, GA.

Please join me in wishing David Blumberg a very happy 60th birthday.

PIPELINE SAFETY, REGULATORY CERTAINTY, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I support the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act. This bill has been improved since it was marked up by the Energy and Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. I know that there are residual issues that some in the industry and some in the environmental community still have. No legislation will make everyone happy all the time, but I think my colleagues Representatives UPTON and DINGELL, have worked hard to come as close as possible with the legislation before us today. I thank them for their leadership and I am pleased that they have set an example of bipartisan legislating that we should all follow.

Pipeline safety is one that is particularly important to me. I represent parts of Houston and East Harris County, where virtually everyone either lives on, or in close proximity to, a